

# THE WAR IN KANSAS.

## TRIUMPH OF THE BORDER RUFFIANS.

### LAWRENCE IN RUINS.

#### Several Persons Slaughtered.

#### FREEDOM BLOODILY SUBDUED.

[Our correspondence from Kansas reaches us irregularly, and very likely a great deal of it is not yet recorded, but destroyed on its way, by the Border Ruffians now embodied under the official name of the Federal Government for the purpose of wholesale murder, arson and robbery. There are some reports of the progress of events and letters reach us long after their date. On Saturday, for instance, we were enabled to publish dispatches forwarded on the 17th inst. by our faithful special correspondent in the Territory, while others of the same date and of the 18th and 19th only reached us last evening. We give them, however, in the order of their dates, and in so doing, do not need to commend them to the attention of an excited and justly indignant public.]

## THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Saturday, May 10, 1856.

This morning there was a secret session for a few hours. Branson was under examination, and a few of his neighbors, and the examination doubtless related to the murder of Dow. Hence, the secret session. About 11 o'clock the Committee resumed the open investigation, Messrs. Howard and Sherman present. Mr. Oliver left this morning for home.

Judge WAKEFIELD SWORN—Born in Kentucky; came to Illinois, to Iowa, to Kansas; was one of the settlers of the Territory; gave testimony in regard to the rules established by the early squatters for the government of claims; at the first meeting held, July 1854, of which notice had been given, a large number of men from Missouri attended, and the residents finding that these men were determined to vote, adjourned the meeting. After the Missourians left the people re-assembled, and passed laws regulating the holding of claims; they elected a Chief Justice, Marshal, and Recorder; a desire being manifested to amend the rules adopted for the government of claims, another meeting was called, of which, also, notice was given; at this meeting a large number of Missourians were again present; these men made speeches, and some of them made threats; after a great deal of argument and difficulty, a compromise between the actual residents and the Missourians was made by which two reports, one called a majority and the other a minority, (so far as this meeting was concerned,) and both of these reports were adopted, although they conflicted in many points; thus the difficulty was arranged, and thus was the Land Claim Squatter Laws adopted; on the election for Delegate to Congress, November, 1854, witness was a candidate; went down to Franklin two days before the election, and met large crowds of men coming up from Missouri; these men told witness and his companion where they came from; next day, in returning, also saw large crowds going up into the Territory; one man told him that he was from Clay County, and that half Clay County would be there; told witness (whom he took for a Pro-Slavery man) that if he wanted to vote he must go to the place of election where there was two whisky barrels and tell them he wanted to record a claim; on the day of election witness went to the voting place; there were upward of 200 votes polled; there were not more than 50 residents in the district at that time, and a great many of these did not vote; one of the Judges of Election was a person he has never seen before or since; there was abundance of whisky on the ground, and it was distributed freely; there were probably 200 illegal votes polled that day; the men were armed; one man advised witness not to challenge votes or he would be killed; one man seized witness by the collar, and called him a "d-d Abolitionist"; when they got through voting they got into their wagons and carriages, and horses, and cried as they started down the road toward Missouri, "All aboard for Westport and Kansas"; witness took evidence of frauds in the district, and presented them, with another protest, to the Governor; the Governor said that there was no use of proceeding with contesting the election, unless he did it all over the Territory; advised witness to go to Congress and contest the election there; he could get mileage; witness identified many names as residents of Missouri, among others that of S. H. Woodson (Col. Woodson of Independence); The evening before the election, March 30, 1855, a party of men stayed at the house of witness; they went to the polls and found a large army of Missourians, who continued to arrive; they were armed; witness was called upon to assist the Judges in filling out the poll-books; this gave offense to the Missourians, who cried to turn him out as he had no business there; the Judges took the oath prescribed by the Governor, voting began, when the Missourians crowded up and demanded to vote; one of the Judges (Mr. Burson) challenged the first of these men who offered to vote, and tendered him the oath; refused to take it; a great tumult was visible outside, and there were cries to put Wakefield out of the voting room; one of these men, named Jackson, got on a log and made an inflammatory speech; advised the men to put white ribbon in their button-holes, so as to distinguish them from the "Abolitionists"; an attack was made on the house where the Judges and Clerks of Election were; some tried to batter down the door, and to prise a hole in the wall with a lever; one of the Judges (a Pro-Slavery man named Ellison) seized the ballot box and rushing out with it cried, "Hooray for Missouri"; the other two Judges asked Wakefield what they should do; he told them to go down to the house of Ramsey, one of them, which was only a few hundred yards off, and draw up a protest to the Governor, stating the facts; they did so; when going, S. G. Jones (Sheriff Jones) called to them to stop, but they disregarded this; drew up the protest, and all the residents who had assembled there, signed it; after some of them had left, the Missourians came flocking down, and seeing a man going over the prairie ridge took after him, crying it is Burson, he has got the poll-books; his name was Umbarger; they brought him back and came down to the house shouting "take Wakefield, dead or alive"; witness stepped into the house, got a double barreled gun, cocked it; a great many of them presented pistols at him; some of witness's friends urged him to surrender; or they would all be killed; witness wanted to know on what terms first; they demanded that he should go up to the polls and state whether he had advised the Judges to take the poll-books; witness told them, where he was, that he had not given them this advice, but would have done so if he could have got near enough; witness went up to the polls, on their promise not to molest him, and made a speech to them; one man cried "shoot him, he's too sassy"; another man wanted to tie a white ribbon in his button-hole for fear the boys would kill him; after some further trouble witness went home; all the actual residents had left then, or were leaving; witness being a candidate for the council made up a protest; the Governor set aside the election and ordered a new election, which was held in May; at this election there were none but resident voters; witness was elected for the Council, and two other Free State men for the Council, and a certificate from the Governor, attested to his election; on Elections proceeded to investigate disputed claims, stating that a man named Donaldson was entitled to the seat; witness made a speech to them, part of which (particularly eloquent) he proceeded to give, when Mr. Howard requested him to confine himself to facts; he lost his seat, members of the Council all voting against him save one. [With this the morning session of the Committee was brought to a close.]

The afternoon was all consumed with secret

session. The committee were examining witnesses relative to the murders of Dow and Barber. The testimony given by these men it was impossible to get, but from some of them I learned enough to get, that it is a body of conclusive evidence, going to prove the statements as to these affairs published in THE TRIBUNE last Fall. I learn that the examination discloses some startling facts, and fixes the guilt on the parties with a good deal of certainty. Branson himself (a quiet, peaceable old man) is recounting the story of how he has been and was hunted like a beast, not daring to go about his house till after night, while bands of armed men were skulking about for him. The brother of Barber, who had been with him when he was shot, gave testimony as to how his brother and himself were chased; that the party were company A, or a part of them, from Wakarusa; that Gen. Clark and Dr. Wood were of that party. As to the man who fired the shot, I will not probe the mystery by giving his name, for the public will soon have it in an official way, and besides, every man of that infamous company, who could follow a man, deliberately see him shot, and leave him dead or dying on the prairie, are equally guilty with the blood-stained hand that brought agony to a widowed heart.

As the business accumulating on the hands of the committee was considerable, and as they are anxious to get to Leavenworth as soon as possible, they have held a night session this evening, of which the following is a report:

GEORGE F. WARREN SWORN—Emigrated from New Hampshire on the 11th of March, 1855; moved to Leavenworth City, and was there at the election, March 30; the election was held at a small building west of the Leavenworth Hotel; the day before election Missourians came flocking in from Weston, Parkville, Lexington and Independence, and other points on the Missouri River; they came in steamers; the hotel was crowded the evening before with strangers; witness was clerk there; these men freely said that they came to vote; they were armed to the teeth; they justified their conduct on the ground that the Emigrant Aid Society had sent out voters; they said that by the Kansas Nebraska bill they were entitled to vote; one man from Platte County had two revolvers, a double barrel shot-gun, bowie-knife and large butcher's cleaver; polls were not opened till 10 o'clock; there was a delay about the Judges, and Mr. David Brown was compelled to resign by threats; the Missourians chose another in his place; there was a great crowd of people present, I should think twelve hundred; they put a rope around the polls at different places; saw a number of men from Clay and Platte Counties introduced each other as captains of companies; cries from these men of "Platte County boys come this way," and "Clay County boys come this way"; they were in companies during the day, but voted separately; they all voted; the Free-State men seeing this state of affairs, held a meeting and determined not to vote; not more than fifty or sixty votes were polled by Free-State men; the polls were closed about dusk; the Missourians voted all day; they voted for Richard K. Rees and Z. J. Easton for the Council, and Mathias M. Meekin and Paine for Representatives. Rees, Easton and Mathias lived at Leavenworth. Meekin and Paine lived in Weston then, but have moved into the Territory since then; some of the Free-State men did not vote because they were intimidated, and others because of the foreign vote; a protest was sent to Gov. Reeder, the steamer New Lucy, came down during the day and brought a large company from Weston, Mo.; about 250 to 300 men; they had colors flying; they declared they had a right to vote under the Kansas-Nebraska bill; they returned between 9 and 10 o'clock to Weston; many of those who stayed at the hotel the night previous to the election went off without paying their bills; witness went after them and collected \$37; many of them offered me counterfeit money, and bills that they knew I could not change; as Missourians had not voted the Free-State men could have elected their candidates by a large majority; witness is well acquainted with the district; Mr. Rees was not Postmaster at that time; after the Missourians voted for him he was appointed Postmaster; there was few houses in the town at that time, not more than thirty frame buildings; but few settlers there or in the vicinity. [Witness testified to the lynching of Mr. Phillips at Leavenworth, but as the particulars already given to the public are fully substantiated I need not give them here. On this point witness gave testimony that will show how those are rewarded who serve the Pro-Slavery interest. A Pro-Slavery Committee had been shown to wait on Phillips and order him to leave the town. One of them, an associate Editor of THE LEAVENWORTH HERALD, has since been appointed clerk in the Surveyor-General's office; Scott Hoyle is since appointed Clerk of the United States District Court under Judge Leecombe; Eli Moore was made Deputy Marshal of Leavenworth; James M. Lyle was afterward Chief Clerk of the Beggs Legislature; Burnham, since made City Surveyor; S. C. Posey, since a Territorial Surveyor, and so on. The particulars of the affair and the names of the parties implicated in it were given.]

## THREATENING ASPECT OF AFFAIRS.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LAWRENCE, K. T., May 11, 1856.

During the whole of yesterday and last night reports and dispatches from Free-State men who live at different points in the Territory, arrived in Lawrence, all giving warning that armed men and munitions of war were quietly proceeding from those points toward Lawrence. Some little allowance must be made for the fears and excitement of those who had seen these movements, but there was enough of truth at bottom to give serious cause of alarm. That an armed Territorial Militia, which has embodied most of Burford's men and other Southerners, has been formed, and is now in a threatening attitude, need not admit of a doubt. That they meditate the destruction of Lawrence there is too much reason to believe. It is stated that next Friday night is appointed for secret and murderous attack on the place, and Lawrence is to be blotted out in blood and fire, and the perpetrators sink off like ghosts in the night. As evidence on this point, three distinct messengers have been sent by the Free-State men at Leavenworth, giving warning of these threats, and of preparations for them. A Pro-Slavery merchant of Kansas City, but a respectable man, has given warning that such an attack is meditated. A Free-State Missourian who lives in Lawrence, and who has just been on a visit to his friends on the Missouri borders, was warned and begged by them not to return to Lawrence for twelve days yet; and a great many similar warnings have reached this place from many quarters, and as there could be no collision between these sources of testimony, it is clear that the Secret Blue Lodge of Missouri is at work, and that deeds of daring and unscrupulous violence are contemplated. The arrival of the large bodies of armed Southern emigrants, and the results of the Committee of Investigation have, doubtless, precipitated this. Like a gambler at his last throw, they stand prepared for desperate steps.

Mr. Oliver has deserted the Commission, and deserted it in its hour of danger. He was up at Leavenworth on Friday, in conference with the Pro-Slavery men there. He left yesterday morning for his home in Missouri, making sundry apologies and promises of being at Leavenworth. Now, when his presence might have been interposed to prevent the outrages of desperate men, many of them from his district, who are sending a threatening post-

tion, he forsakes the Commission. His leave-taking at such a time is ominous; it is significant of the course to be pursued, and of the position in which he is placed. Mr. Oliver's position is a delicate and critical one. He is expected to make a minority report favorable to his party, and has not the vestige of a reason, an argument, or a fact to offer. Sophistry and imprudent lies, such as Douglas vends, might do in the absence of testimony, but on the top of such a body of damning proof they would only be ridiculous. He might take a high and statesmanlike stand before the country, and magnanimously ask to write the majority report, deprecate the outrages proven and state his previous ignorance of them; but here again the past stands like a forbidding specter. The testimony will convey the fact of his own participation in these affairs—he could not stand justified before his co-peers in Congress as in the eyes of the world, and the struggles of awakened conscience and honor would expose him to relentless and irremediable political ruin from his constituency.

And yet I believe that Mr. Oliver would like to occupy an honorable position. If he be a Border Ruffian legislator, I believe that he is so by a hard political fate, which is visited on him for an unwise, perhaps an unscrupulous, political ambition.

Mr. Whitfield has been gone since Thursday last, and is visiting, and, it is said, conversing with the worthies at Leecombe. The Leecombe Union—a violent little Pro-Slavery sheet just started, and filled with advertisements from Westport and other border towns—was out in an alarming extra yesterday, which says that war is declared, and that Messrs. Howard and Sherman have declared it, and says they will be responsible for all that it follows. It is filled with malicious lies, not having the shadow of foundation, in fact, and pours a torrent of disrespectful abuse on the heads of these two gentlemen. The object of this is too evident. It is a firebrand to excite the reckless spirits assembling around Leecombe. It is a subtle trick to break down what respect might be accorded to a Commission of Congress and to bound the Border Ruffians on them.

Col. Sumner was in town yesterday evening, and conferred with Mr. Howard. He will be down tomorrow. The Committee of Safety intend to appeal to him for protection.

## THE CRISIS AT HAND.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LEAVENWORTH CITY, K. T., May 17, 1856.

If there is a man on the American continent who does not consider the Slave Power inimical to republican institutions and dangerous to the most valued possessions and rights of our common country, he should stand on the soil of Kansas at the present moment. Political frauds, winked at by the authorities who ought to have prevented them, because those authorities have been corrupted by the potent arm of the Slaveocracy; the Free-State people of Kansas crushed by a despotism as little responsible to them, and as little regarding them, as the Russian and the Austrian did the unhappy aspirants for Liberty in Hungary; a people without law, with the emissaries of a corrupt Judiciary, a corrupt Territorial Government, and a marauding and fraudulent Legislature, engaged in their ceaseless persecution—such are the fair fruits of the scheme to plant Slavery in Kansas; a scheme beginning in political rascality, and ending in war and confusion. Let those who fill the ears of easy politicians of the North with the cant cries of "Abolitionism," "Niggerism," and other sneers and slurs which can be conveniently heard to hide the truth, continue their servile trade, and mislead those whose selfish conservatism renders them but too easy victims. It is the free white people of America on whom the bonds are not to be cast, for an aristocratic Slaveocracy must trample on their privileges and sacred rights before they can succeed in their object. Much of this has already been done, and the remainder trembles on the eve of its accomplishment.

It is vain to say that the difference is trifling, and that it will be easy to reconcile it. The interests are antagonistic and irreconcilable; the treachery of the Kansas-Nebraska bill brought them in conflict, and one of them must succumb. Wherever Slavery plants its footstep, there you create an aristocracy which, altogether independent of its effect on the negro, is degrading to free white labor, and dangerous to the rights of white men.

Last night had been fixed for an attack on Lawrence, but I heard two days before that it would be delayed, or I would have been there. I start this morning, as the sunshine sends a little light through the driving clouds. All of yesterday it rained, rained, rained, and through the darkness of the night the pitiless rain came down, but as I listened to it I remembered the camp of blood-thirsty secondaries around Lawrence, and knew that the storm was an errand of mercy. I have just learned from Lawrence that there is some intention of preparing for resistance, not to be used until the Marshal's posse have proceeded to order acts of violence. This is perhaps the best policy that can be taken now. A new Committee of Safety has been appointed in Lawrence. All from that quarter is rumor and uncertainty.

All of yesterday the Committee was in secret session, no doubt examining the murder cases. I have questioned some of the witnesses privately and have no doubt but that the murder of Brown will prove to be one of the blackest atrocities on the records of crime. I have been told that Brown, when he saw that they meant to attack him, offered to fight any one, or any two of these villains, but unarmed as he was, they beat him. After cutting him with hatchets and knives till he fell down dying, he was kicked on the floor. He told them to let him alone, he was dying, but they killed and stamped on him, and one atrocious scoundrel is said to have stooped over the dying man and spat tobacco juice in his eyes. Such a monster you would think would be shunned by all honorable minds, but I have been told this man has received marks of confidence and high trust from the Governor.

Yesterday morning, just as the Committee were going into secret session, Gen. Richardson came in with a written answer to a question he had merely declined to answer the evening before. The question was, "Do you know of any regulation made by this secret society (this question was one of a series) relative to any evidence to be taken or given before this Committee?" Mr. Richardson said that he had not time to think of the question when it was first put, but had prepared an answer. It was: "The question is impertinent and offensive, and could have originated only in the mind of a man who could himself be guilty of such an act." This reply is not very symmetrical as a literary production, but as a vulgar attack on the Committee, is plain enough. It is ominous of further insolence to them, and I am not aware that they are safe from violence.

## REPORT OF A GENTLEMAN FROM LAWRENCE.

We have conversed with Mr. Charles H. Branson, who left Lawrence on the morning of the 16th inst. on a mission to the President at Washington, to implore him to interfere and save the people of Lawrence from butchery and their property from total destruction by the infuriated Border-Ruffian mob—a mission on whose success the melancholy intelligence which we have received by telegraph and publish in another column, affords a conclusive commentary.

Mr. Branson could see no reason to hope that the news of the destruction of Lawrence is not correct. Indeed, he says that to one not an eye witness to the facts can well conceive the constant and varied outrages to which the Free-State men of Kansas have for some time past been subjected. Thus, for instance, on the 12th inst., a party of eleven Free-State settlers were quietly at work, without arms, in a field at Benicia, some four miles from Lawrence, when they were suddenly surrounded by twenty-five Missourians, armed to the teeth, who took them prisoners without any warrant or other authority. The Missourians carried them into a neighboring cabin, and with many calls, ordered them to leave the Territory on pain of death. "Go—d—n you, if you are ever caught here again you shall be stung up!" Go to Nebraska, "d—n you!" You have no right in Kansas!" Such was the language of these ruffians, who concluded by saying that they were coming to Lawrence in a few days to wipe out the d-d abolition city, and to kill or drive off every one of the inhabitants. After this admonition they released all of their prisoners but one, a Mr. Shimmers, formerly from Worcester Co., Mass., who had answered them with some spirit, and whom they carried away with them for further discipline.

Another fact reported by Mr. Branson affords an illustration of the spirit of the women of the Free-State settlers. Previous to this arresting the men in the field a part of the same gang had visited the cabin of Mr. Shimmers for the purpose of stealing his revolver and Sharp's rifle. His wife was alone, and refused to give them up. She leveled the revolver at the leader, but just as she was about to pull the trigger one of the ruffians seized her arm from behind and took the weapons from her, after which they left her with the same brutal menace as were addressed to the men in the field.

Robbery has been practiced without restraint upon the Free-State people. Cows and other animals have continually been killed and carried off to the camp of the Ruffians at Leecombe. One man was forced to drive his own cow there, when she was taken from him and killed before his eyes. These instances are given as specimens from among many others, and are by no means the worst that might be reported, as those who have read our recent Kansas letters are well aware.

Mr. Branson could be at Lawrence when they received the reply of Marshal Donaldson to the request of the people to be informed as to the precise nature of his demands, and declaring that they contemplated no resistance to the laws. Of this document, it may be remembered, our special correspondent was unable to forward a copy. Mr. Branson describes it as exceedingly coarse and insolent in its manner. The only points of complaint which the Marshal brought against the people of Lawrence were: 1. The shooting of Jones; 2. The applause of the people when Reeder declared he would not be arrested on the process for contempt of court; and 3. The existence of a military organization in the town.

Gov. Reeder, Mr. Branson believes, is safe in Iowa. He left Kansas, as our readers will remember, were informed by our special correspondent, on the earnest advice of Messrs. Howard and Sherman, of the Congressional Committee, who thought that his absence would remove a cause of collision between the people of Lawrence and the United States troops or Border marauders. We now learn that his assassination had been determined on by the latter, and that it was for that purpose that he was to be taken to Leecombe. For this the subpoena was issued to bring him before the Court, and for this the writ of arrest for contempt, and the indictment for high treason were also arranged. The indictment was found by the Grand Jury without hearing a single witness. Mr. Branson fears that Gov. Robinson will also be assassinated. He was to be taken from Lexington, Mo., where it will be remembered he was detained by a mob, up to Leecombe, on the requisition of Gov. Shannon, on Sunday last, the 12th inst.

Such is the aspect of Kansas as described by this gentleman. The reign of terror there lacks nothing of being perfect. Assassinations, robberies, outrages and violence of every description are freely practiced, while the United States troops, fully authorized to aid and support the Border Ruffian authorities, are forbidden by the orders they have received from the President to do anything to protect the Free-State settlers from slaughter and their fields and houses from devastation. Such is the result of Popular Sovereignty as expounded by Senator Douglas, and enforced with all the power of the Government by President Pierce.

## A DAY LATER FROM LAWRENCE.

From THE CLEVELAND DAILY HERALD, May 22.

We have had an interview with Mr. W. P. Taft of Brooklyn, who on yesterday (Wednesday) reached this city, having left Lawrence, in Kansas, on Saturday morning last, (the 17th), being two days later than the letter of today's paper, in which Mr. Taft also had the honor to be mentioned. The news he brought, therefore, is the very latest, as he had a very quick run of less than two days from Kansas to St. Louis. Mr. Taft left Kansas City, in Missouri, on Sunday. We have heard enough from Mr. Taft to convince us that the cause of the Free-State people is desperate. Badly as the country is being ravaged, the Free-State men without means must starve. Gov. Shannon has called out what he terms the militia, which is a entirely composed of Missourians, Alabamians, South Carolinians, and Georgians, who being enrolled are under pay, and thus nearly 2,000 of the express purport of the Territorial law—down the throats of citizens of Lawrence, or murder them, or drive them from the Territory.

The troops of the Federal Government are not relied upon by Shannon and his knaves, for, having some knowledge of the law, they will not do the bidding of the Ruffians. Col. Sumner and his officers and men are stigmatized as "d-d Abolitionists."

Upon the attempted arrest of Reeder on the writ of attachment issued by the Comptroller, Reeder was prevailed on to fly, and thus save his own life and that of the people of Lawrence—for the vengeance of the Ruffians is not less ready to descend upon the innocent than upon the guilty. Reeder thus refused to be arrested, and because that is a strong Free-State town. Up to last Saturday, Reeder had not been heard from.

A camp of South Carolinians and Missourians near Leavenworth numbers 800, and is daily receiving additions. Another camp of 120 is about a mile and a half from Lawrence. The camp on Friday last arrested eleven men, nine of whom, after being warned to leave the Territory, were released, but two are still retained.

Every man passing up or down by land is arrested and searched. Even actors are broken up and their houses are pillaged, provisions are stolen and every kind of depredation committed.

When Mr. Taft left on Saturday, an attack was hourly expected on Lawrence, but by the end of the day, and it is probable the town is laid low before this.

The citizens of Lawrence were not in a posture for defense, although they had some arms and ammunition. Another package of testimony was brought down upon the same boat by Mr. Branson, who by the aid of Mr. Taft, and Mr. J. H. Hays, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., (who had accompanied Mr. Taft all through Kansas) was able to keep it away from Ruffian hands, so that, before this, it is safely at Washington.

rejoiced, even to the waving of his hand, the acts of Col. Sumner's troops; and yet these troops are not called upon, but without robbers and murderers are armed by Shannon with United States money.

The last scheme, concocted by the agents of this Administration for the purpose of fastening Slavery upon Kansas, will probably be successful.

Correspondence of the Cleveland Herald.

LAWRENCE, Thursday, May 15, 1856.

There is one thing that threatens to ruin our cause. Thousands of as good and true men as the country can boast of, alured by the glowing description of the country, with its boundless resources, are attracted hither, but most of them bringing little or no means to sustain themselves, and, upon the other, they find upon arrival that provisions are enormously high, that they must pay at least \$3 50, and in most cases \$4 a week for their board. This immediately swallows up their little all; and they, in despair, are compelled to return whence they came. While, upon the other hand, the Pro-Slavery party are reveling in ease and luxury, supported by Southern capital and guaranteed against want.

Thus, you see, the disadvantages under which Free-State men, when brought in contact with Slavery, what shall be done? How shall we meet this inundation of numbers that are to do something for these sufferings? Something must be done, and that shortly, or all is lost. Every steamer that returns to St. Louis, is deeply freighted with the very men who should be citizens of Kansas, and would be if anything could be done to relieve them from embarrasment and subduity. Let months, or until the present excitement subsides. Let the d-d abolitionists, then, that meet men! Let men, and not only men, but money! are needed, and must come, or Kansas is lost!

After having traveled, more or less, in twenty out of the thirty-one of these United States, I am prepared to give it as my opinion that it is impossible to do anything for the people of Kansas, but, alas! beauty and undeveloped wealth can avail nothing at present to the class in whose behalf I plead. The only consolation I can have now is, that the great cause of Liberty can not be made, and after seeing what means we have, as far as I am concerned, I shall stay a while longer anyhow, and, if possible, weather it out.

The citizens of this place are a noble set of fellows; very intelligent, and ordinarily very enterprising; and if any people can stand up to the Slave Power, they will do it. But it seems crushing and almost insupportable. Fifteen hundred Missourians are now encamped, and have been for weeks about four miles from the city.

In haste, W. V.

## NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARSHAL.

Correspondence of THE ST. LOUIS DEMOCRAT.

LEAVENWORTH, K. T., Friday, May 16, 1856.

I left Lawrence yesterday forenoon, on foot, and arrived in this city at midnight. The road was the most beautiful, well-tended and heavily timbered section of the Territory; but a journey on foot by this route, at this season of the year, is far from agreeable. Branches and manes and mud-holes have to be crossed, and some of the streams are so swollen that it is necessary for the traveler to wade to an extent that would totally disqualify him from introduction to a lady. If the next man who travels it escapes without a cold, he will be more lucky than either my companion or myself.

Mr. Sumner, the first Free-State Mayor of this city, has just arrived from Lawrence, and has a letter from Gov. Shannon to him. The nature of its contents are unknown. He was in the camp near Leavenworth yesterday, and says that there are from 800 to 1,000 men there. If Col. Sumner's troops are ordered out, there will be difficulty at Lawrence.

The rabid men in Leavenworth are still excited. They are determined to march to Lawrence, and a large majority of them sympathize with the people of Lawrence. They say that the troops cannot be relied on. This is the reason why Governor Shannon permitted the Marshal to call out the law and order militia. Mr. Oliver is here, and I had a talk with him this morning. He returned from Westport on Sunday.

I told him that I had been informed that he voted at Kickapoo on the 30th of March—made five inflammatory speeches to the invaders from Missouri.

He said he hoped some one would testify to such statements under oath. He was then asked if he would resign his seat in the Committee, inasmuch as he was sworn in as a witness, and deny the charges in general and in detail.

He said, on his honor as a gentleman, that he never voted at Kickapoo, never testified to anything, never thought of voting, never advised any man to vote; but, on the contrary, tried to dissuade men from voting. He made a speech, or several speeches to the Missourians; but instead of being of an inflammatory character, as he made in his remarks to the Missourians on the 30th of March.

Yesterday afternoon the Congressional Investigating Committee held a secret session. Eye-witnesses of the cowardly murder of Mr. Brown of Leavenworth were examined and sworn in. This morning, however, he has never been indicted yet, for they were members of the "law and order" party, &c.

I went over to Platte County immediately after dinner, in order to ascertain whether any companies of armed men were leaving the State to aid in enforcing the draconian laws of the Territory. I found nothing at Weston. I therefore went to the vicinity of Platte City; took supper at the house of a Pro-Slavery man, and directed and listened to the conversation of half a dozen loungers who were congregated around the door.

One of them remarked that he had been at Platte City in the forenoon, and had seen "Old Dave" there, who said that he "didn't intend to go over to Kansas" "again till there was fighting to be done, and then, by "G-d," he would be ready."

I slept in a house near the banks of the Missouri, and returned to this city about ten o'clock. I met Mr. J. H. Hays, who left Lawrence on Thursday morning and arrived here last night.

We were met by the citizens of Lawrence with a note to Col. Sumner, commander of the troops at Fort Leavenworth, requesting him, if he could not assist the citizens in defending their town, at least to station a company of troops in the vicinity to prevent the lawless threats of the "law and order" party, &c.

The majority of the Investigating Committee also called on Col. Sumner for the same purpose this morning. He replied, he would do nothing, or something, but he would not move without orders.

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use their exertions to induce Col. Sumner to protect the city.

Mr. Josiah Miller was one of the committee appointed to wait on Mr. Donaldson. He went to Leecombe with his colleagues and saw the Marshal.

The purpose of the Marshal's answer was that he did not believe the promises of the people of Lawrence; that he regarded them as rebels and traitors, and that they should know it, and stand where they stood.

When they were ready to return the Marshal gave them a written pass.

When the committee were a short distance from Leecombe, they were overtaken by an armed company of men who ordered them to halt.

Their leader stepped up to Mr. Miller and said: "I want you to go back with us."

Messrs. Roberts and Babcock wished to return with him, but the company compelled them to proceed to Lawrence.

When arrested Mr. Miller showed them the Marshal's pass. The leader said he didn't care a damn about the Marshal, he must go with him. No writ of any kind was produced.

Mr. Jenkins, a merchant of Lawrence, was arrested by a mob at Westport or Kansas City, on Wednesday. Mr. Jenkins is a Free-State man, but has never taken an active part in the movements of the Squatter party.

No warrant of course, for he was arrested in Missouri. Mr. Brown, editor of THE HERALD OF FREEDOM, was at Westport under arrest, at the latest dates. No warrant of course, for he was arrested in Missouri.

A mob was in pursuit of Mr. G. P. Lowrey, Gov. Reeder's private secretary, but he escaped down the river in disguise.

Correspondence of THE DAILY ST. LOUIS INTELLIGENCER.

Postscript of a letter dated at

PARKVILLE, Mo., Friday, May 16, 1856.

Prepare for an awful shock. Hold a steady helm, or the ship will be wrecked. Armed men are rushing into the Territory. The destruction of Lawrence is meditated. Civil war is just upon us. Counters, just from Lawrence, say they have from 1,000 to 1,500 men, while they number from 800 to 1,000 around the place.